

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 151 439

UD 017 803

TITLE Survey Responses on Public Education Issues.
 INSTITUTION National Council of Churches of Christ, New York, N.Y.
 PUB DATE 1 Jul 77
 NOTE 13p.
 EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.83 HC-\$1.67 Plus Postage.
 DESCRIPTORS *Church Role; *Community Organizations; Elementary Secondary Education; *Public Education; Public Schools; *Religious Agencies; Resources; *School Integration; Surveys

ABSTRACT

In December, 1976, a questionnaire on public education was sent to approximately 350 state, regional and local ecumenical agencies. The main body of the questionnaire included 16 questions covering a broad range of issues in public education. The overriding issue in the 70 responses received was segregation. This was in contrast to the results of a previous survey done in 1973, in which the most pressing issue cited in the responses was teaching about religion in the schools. Responses to the current questionnaire are presented in this report. Activities of some of the ecumenical groups surveyed are described. Information about school desegregation in the various communities is summarized. Those organizations responding to the questionnaire which indicated involvement in desegregation procedures or public education are listed by state. Also included is a list of helpful references in the area of public education. (Author/GC)

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July 1, 1977

SURVEY RESPONSES ON PUBLIC EDUCATION ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

On December 17, 1976 the program unit on Education in the Society of the National Council of Churches sent a questionnaire on public education to approximately 350 state, regional and local ecumenical agencies. By March 15, 70 replies had been received. Although the target group was ecumenical agencies, responses from three denominational groups are included in this summary. The main body of the questionnaire included 16 questions covering a broad range of issues in public education. This section parallels part of a previous survey done in the fall of 1973. At that time the most pressing issue, according to the responses, was teaching about religion in the schools, whereas in this survey the over-riding issue was desegregation.

In the survey there was also included a special section with questions surrounding the issues of desegregation/integration and busing.

SUMMARY ON PUBLIC EDUCATION ISSUES

In response to the question, "What are the main issues with which this group is concerned?" there were 92 responses. These are listed below in descending numerical order:

Desegregation 14*
Teaching about Religion 12**
Finances 4
School Board, Department of Education, Board of Education (state) 4
Equal Education 3
Racial Issues (justice, isolation, teachers, administrators) 3
Teachers (education, salaries, values)

The following received two responses:

Consciousness Raising on Public Education
Curriculum (and learning centers)
Parental Involvement
Private/Parochial Schools
Quality and Education
Released Time
School Organization/Reorganization

The following received one response:

Affirmative Action
Basic Education
Church, Home, School: Interrelationships
Consciousness Raising on Life Styles
Conservation of Energy

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

* Although the words desegregation, integration, or busing were not always used, an additional number of related responses brings this number to 29.

**Under this topic is included a range of subjects including: Literature of the Bible, Teacher Training, and ways to instigate the teaching of religion in a community's public schools.

(one response cont'd)

Electronic Media
 Environmental Education
 Human Relations
 Junior Citizen's Camp
 Junior High Morale Building
 Junior ROTC
 Literacy
 Public Schools, helping to create a positive image
 Public Schools, value over private which attempt to escape integration
 Public Schools, working to better
 Religious Practices in Public Schools
 Resource Center and Information Exchange for State
 Resource Person Data Bank
 School Facilities, extended use
 State Funding
 State Wide Impact on Governmental Agencies
 Support for those Involved in Public Education
 Survival for Eco-Sphere
 Textbooks, free access
 Values, Morals
 Violence
 Volunteer Assistance during School Transitions
 Youth Activities, specific time for Youth Groups
 Youth out of School

Agencies responding reported the following constituents:

	<u>Number of Replies</u>
Churches (leaders, membership)	29
School Administrators and Boards	19
Local Communities and Leaders	11
Judicatories and Executives	6
State Legislatutes and Legislators	6

One Reply:

Business	North Carolina Council of Churches
Coalition of Concerned Citizens	Denominational Bodies
Community Relations Council	Parental Organizations
Government Groups	Parent Representatives from Schools
Individuals	Public Schools
Montana Association of Churches,	School Districts
Board of Directors	School Personnel
Media	State Communities-Leaders
Ministry Board Members	Students
National Education Organizations	

Two Replies:

An Individual	Community Organizations
Parent and Neighborhood Organizations	School organizations

Several groups are responding to their local situations by encouraging their districts to draw up voluntary desegregation plans; others stated that they had developed training materials and sponsored awareness-training events. One of the proposals of the Alaskan Christian Conference is to employ an educational lobbyist. Another group provides volunteer riders the first week of school, while still another maintains a desegregation hot line staffed by volunteers.

The Evansville (Indiana) Area Council of Churches sponsored two workshops in October, 1976, in cooperation with the Evansville Teachers Association's annual conference on instruction. The two workshops were on Teaching About Religion in the Public School, and Teaching Religiously Orientated Literature: Problems and Possibilities.

From Virginia, Presbyterians Involved in Public Education report that they have written ministers and sessions suggesting ways in which public education can be promoted as a concern in the local congregation. They have also held meetings to acquaint persons with the public school system and written a proposal on public education to present to Hanover Presbytery. Presbyterians Involved reported good local press coverage and the stimulation of interest among other church as well as business and professional groups.

The Indiana Interreligious Commission on Human Equality has published a "School Desegregation Chronicle," sponsored six radio shows to explore racial and cultural differences as gifts to be shared, and presented a play "Promise and Performance," tracing the history of race relations in Indiana. Further, they sponsored four workshops for congregational teams to receive information on desegregated education. The team returned to their congregations and implemented actions of their own design. Following a period of time, they reconvened to assess their results. The Indiana Interreligious Commission received the Human Rights Award from the Indiana Education Association.

Through the efforts of the St. Paul (Minnesota) Area Council of Churches, new policies for extended use of school facilities and Human Relations Training Seminars for teachers and administrators have been implemented.

From the Ohio Council of Churches comes the word that "In every city where there is some stage of court enforced desegregation, there are now active persons from the churches involved in the process."

The overwhelming response to the question, "What are some of the problems you are encountering while working in the area of public education?" was apathy.

SUMMARY ON DESEGREGATION ISSUES

Thirty-five groups responded that their communities are currently in the process of desegregation. The majority of these are located in the North East and North Central states, and California. Nineteen groups reported that their states are not currently undergoing the process of desegregation.

Fourteen agencies said that their communities are under court orders to desegregate. Thirty reported that this was not the case, and one agency reported that although its community is under court order, this is under appeal.

Respondents noted that less is known about student attitudes toward desegregation than about the attitudes of other groups involved in public education.

RESOURCES

The following listing includes a number of references suggested by ecumenical agencies as being particularly helpful in the area of public education:

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

James E. Wood, Executive Director
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

CITIZENS COUNCIL FOR OHIO SCHOOLS

517 Arcade
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

THE FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE

1841 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10023

THE FOUNDATION FOR EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

3838 Summit View Road
Dublin, Ohio 43017

MINISTRIES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

c/o Educational Ministries
American Baptist Churches
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 19481

NATIONAL CENTER FOR QUALITY INTEGRATED EDUCATION

1201 16th Street, N.W. Room 403
Washington, D.C. 20036

NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSN.

One Dupont Circle, Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20036

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR CITIZENS IN EDUCATION

410 Wilde Lake Village
Columbia, Maryland 21044

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON RELIGION & PUBLIC EDUCATION

Dr. Caryl B. Adrian, Executive Dir.
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana 47306

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

1201 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

NATIONAL OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLICS

735 15th Street, N.W. #903
Washington, D.C. 20005

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare
300 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

PUBLIC EDUCATION RELIGION STUDIES CENTER

Dr. William Collie, Executive Director
Wright State University
Dayton, Ohio 45431

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Rev. Boardman W. Kathan, General Secretary
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

TASK FORCE ON RACISM & PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Council on Church and Race, UPUSA
475 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 10027

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

55 East Monroe Room 1536
Chicago, Illinois 60603

PERIODICALS AND PUBLICATIONS

Education U.S.A.

National School Public Relations Association
1801 North Moore Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209
(Weekly newsletter covering all aspects
of education, \$12. per year)

Fulfilling the Letter and Spirit of the Law

U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20204
(A Report of the U.S. Commission on Civil
Rights that assesses the state of desegregation
in the nation's public schools, 1976)

Inequality in Education

Center for Law and Education
Harvard University, Larsen Hall
14 Appian Way
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
(A quarterly publication, \$6. per year)

PERIODICALS AND PUBLICATIONS (CONT'D)

Integrated Education

Integrated Education Associates
School of Education, Northwestern
University
2003 Sheridan Road
Evanston, Illinois 60201
(Bi-monthly publication, \$10 per year)

Journal of Current Social Issues

Vol. 13, No. 3 Summer 1976
287 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10010
(A special issue devoted to public
education \$1.95. Study guide available
for \$2.)

School Desegregation-Community Preparation
and the Role of the Churches

Division of Education and Ministry
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive, Room 710
New York, N.Y. 10027
(A study booklet with articles on critical
issues, and a summary report on regional
desegregation consultations. \$2.)

Teaching about Religion in the Public
Schools as an Option, by J. Blaine Fister
Board of Discipleship
United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 840
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

RESPONSES BY STATE

Below is a listing, by state, of organizations that responded to the questionnaire and listed the public education issues in which they were involved or indicated that they were currently engaged in desegregation procedures and/or gave the name of a contact person in public education.

The public education issues are marked by an asterisk and if they were involved in desegregation procedures an additional phrase noting it is carried in parentheses.

<u>ORGANIZATION AND ISSUE</u>	<u>AGENCY EXECUTIVE and/or CONTACT PERSON</u>
<u>ALASKA</u>	
ALASKA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE	Mrs. Franklin Landstrom
*higher education	813 West 3rd Avenue
*private education	Anchorage, Alaska 99501
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>	
BERKELEY AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL	William Shive
(desegregation took place voluntarily)	2340 Durant Avenue
	Berkeley, California 94704
GREATER RICHMOND INTERFAITH COUNCIL	Gail E. Kachler, Coordinator, GRIP
*affirmative action	11275 San Pablo Avenue
*curriculum	El Cerrito, California 94530
*racial injustice	
(desegregation took place voluntarily, for the most part)	
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES	Rev. Priscilla R. Chaplin
(under court order to desegregate)	1716 North Wilson Place
	Los Angeles, California 90028
VENTURA COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES	Dr. Wales E. Smith, President
*literature of the bible	8120 Village 8, Leisure Village
(desegregation took place voluntarily, for the most part)	Camarillo, California 93010
<u>CONNECTICUT</u>	
THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES & SYNAGOGUES, INC. (Stamford)	The Rev. Kit Wilke
*percentage of minority teachers/principals	First Congregational Church
*public education	Walton Place
*school board	Stamford, Connecticut 06904
(desegregation took place voluntarily)	Rev. Grover Wilson, Executive Director
	20 Forrest Street
	Stamford, Connecticut 06902
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF CONNECTICUT	The Rev. Frank Murdock
*the moral use of knowledge	University of Connecticut
*values in teacher education	Storrs, Connecticut 06268
	The Rev. Samuel Slie, Campus Minister
	Southern Connecticut State College
	New Haven, Connecticut 06515

CONNECTICUT (Cont'd)
CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF CONNECTICUT

The Rev. Mark Rohrbaugh
Mrs. Mary Ambler
60 Lorrane Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

FLORIDA

FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES OF
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

Rev. Morrel Robinson
Fellowship of Churches of Southeast Florida
University of Miami
P.O. Box 248264
Coral Gables, Florida 33124

GEORGIA

SOUTH DECATUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
*mandatory JROTC in Decatur
High School

L.H. Lancaster, Jr.
530 Oakview Road
Decatur, Georgia 30030

ILLINOIS

CHURCHES UNITED OF SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA
& ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS
(not under court orders but engaged
in desegregation procedures, both
voluntarily and according to state
requirements)

Thomas N. Kalshourn
639 - 38th Street
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

- * teaching about religion in the
public schools
- * teacher education for teaching
about religion

Ms. Judy Ridlen, Associate Minister
Christian Church in Illinois & Wisconsin
1011 North Main Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

(under court order on desegregation)

Rev. James M. Webb, Executive Director
615 South 5th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703

ILLINOIS CONSORTIUM ON GOVERNMENTAL
CONCERNS

- * state funding-amount and priorities

Warren Copeland
615 South 5th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703

(under court order on desegregation)

INDIANA

CHURCH FEDERATION OF GREATER
INDIANAPOLIS, INC.

(under court order on desegregation)

Paul E. McClure
1100 West 42nd Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

COMMUNITY INTERFAITH HOUSING, INC.

(under court order on desegregation)

Loren Richard Hudson
2401 North Central Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205

EVANSVILLE AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

- *teaching about religion in the
public schools

Mrs. James Schwentker, Jr.
849 South Meadow Road
Evansville, Indiana 47715

INDIANA (Cont'd)

INDIANA INTERRELIGIOUS COMMISSION ON
HUMAN EQUALITY

*school desegregation

MONROE COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES, INC.

*finances for public education
*free access to publically owned
textbooks

("Fully integrated for some years,
partly because of the university
community.")

Mrs. Dorothea S. Green
1100 West 42nd Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Rev. Jack King (for ecumenical programs)
1514 East 3rd Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Dr. Robert H. White
827 West 14th Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Ms. Emily Wade, Task Force Chairperson
321 North Indiana Avenue
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

IOWA

CHURCHES UNITED OF SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA
AND ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS
(See under Illinois)

CHURCHES UNITED, INC. (Cedar Rapids)

*establishing an agreed upon time
for church youth activities and
monitoring this

(desegregation took place voluntarily)

Rev. Warren Webb
1310 Third Avenue, S.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Dr. Wayne A. Shireman, President
1026 Third Avenue, S.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

KANSAS

THE TOPEKA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*citizen's advisory committee
on the board of education

(under court order on desegregation)

J.B. Holland
1521 Campbell
Topeka, Kansas 66604

C. Donald Close
1822-A Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612

KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*teaching about religion in the
public schools

John C. Bush
1500 West Main, room 238
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA INTERCHURCH CONFERENCE

*student relationships that have
emerged because of integration
*quality education
*the value of public schools over
private which escape integration
*teacher salaries

(under court order on desegregation)

Rev. James L. Stovall
440 North Foster Drive, suite 106
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

MARYLAND

COMMUNITY MINISTRY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY (no contact person given)
114 West Montgomery Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(desegregation took place voluntarily)

MASSACHUSETTS

THE INTERCHURCH COUNCIL OF GREATER
NEW BEDFORD, INC.
*lack of parent involvement in
school system
*need to build up morale in
junior high
Mrs. Sally Ainsworth
37 Morelands Terrace
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

MICHIGAN

GREATER FLINT COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
*quality education for all
Mr. Stuart L. Nisbett
200 West Jackson
Flint, Michigan 48505

MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
*equal education for all children
and youth
*some continuing concern for aid
to parochial education
Duane N. Vore
P.O. Box 10206
Lansing, Michigan 48901

MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
*curriculum and learning centers
*extended use of school facilities
*human relations
*religion in public education
Mr. Gerald C. Fahrenholz
C. Arthur Scott, Executive Director
St. Paul Area Council of Churches
1671 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105

(both yes and no were checked for the
question "did desegregation take
place voluntarily?")

TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN CHURCH
COMMISSION
*guidelines for public school
teachers
*public awareness
*religion in public education
*religion practices in public
schools
Mr. Gerald C. Farenholz
122 West Franklin Avenue, room 218
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

MONTANA

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES
*camps ministry
*electronic media
*Junior Citizens Camp
The Rev. Paul Krebill
100 24th Street
Billings, Montana 59102

NEW YORK

BUFFALO AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*school desegregation

(under court order on desegregation)

Rev. Donald Armstrong
1272 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209

Robert E. Grimm - same as above

Rev. Max Glenn
Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministry
107 Delaware Avenue, 210 Statler Building
Buffalo, New York 14202

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF THE MOHAWK
VALLEY AREA, INC.

*quality of personnel on school board
*school integration

(desegregation took place voluntarily)

Dr. Alan B. Peabody, Executive Director
1644 Genesee Street
Utica, New York 13502

PROTESTANT COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

*desegregation

(desegregation took place voluntarily)

Barbara H. Thompson, Executive Director
Protestant Community Ministries
3049 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, New York 13224

NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Committee on Religion & Public Education

*implementing the teaching of Bible
in the public school curriculum
*implementation of religion in the
public school curriculum
*the use of released time

(desegregation took place voluntarily)

Dr. J.H. Crum
Box 72
Benson, North Carolina 27504

NORTH DAKOTA

NORTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE ON CHURCHES

(desegregation took place voluntarily)

Rev. H.W. Stoerker
North Dakota Council of Churches
107 1/2 Fourth Street
Bismark, North Dakota 58501

OHIO

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CENTRAL STARK
COUNTY (Canton)

*elementary reorganization

(desegregation took place voluntarily)

Rev. Al Irby
207 - 34th N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44709

GREATER CLEVELAND INTERCHURCH COUNCIL

*desegregation
*literacy
*school finance
*youth out of school

(under court order on desegregation)

Ms. Nancy Oakley, Education Specialist
Greater Cleveland Interchurch Council
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

MARCC (Cincinnati)

- *racial isolation
- *school district reorganization
- *school finance

Rev. Duane Holm
920 Provident Bank Building
623 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(desegregation took place voluntarily)

OHIO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

- *alertness of implications of state-wide impact
- *community attitudes as they face various voluntary stages of desegregation
- *distinctive role of the religious community in helping total community face the implications of previous segregationist actions, and develop wholesome attitudes toward new integration procedures
- *resource center and clearinghouse for helpful materials and for exchange of information among Ohio citizens

Keene Lebold
Carlton Weber
Robert Graetz
89 East Wilson Bridge Road
Columbus, Ohio 43085

TOLEDO METRO MISSION

- *desegregation
- *equality programming and facilities
- *quality education

Jerome Ceille
2130 Madison Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43624

OREGON

THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- *consciousness raising on life styles
- *conservation of energy
- *environmental education in general
- *survival of the eco-sphere

Rev. Douglas M. Still
78646 Bryson-Sears Road
Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424

PENNSYLVANIA

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST
PENNSYLVANIA

- *now in process of forming Pittsburgh Community Leadership Coalition to work for peaceful implementation of final court order

W. Lee Hicks
401 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

(checked both yes and no under "did desegregation take place voluntarily?" - the communities are under court orders, and this is under appeal).

ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE OF GREATER ALTOONA

- *morals/values
- *promote the studies of religion in schools

Mrs. Mary Catherine Maillon, President
2430 Broad Avenue
Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Paul D. Gehris
900 South Arlington Avenue, Room 103
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMUNITY CARE, INC.

- *community support for public schools
- *parental involvement, especially low-income

(desegregation took place voluntarily)

GREENVILLE URBAN MINISTRY

- *community support for public education
- *church, home, school: interrelationship
- *equitable school financing
- *violence

Keller H. Bumgardner
1611 Devonshire Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29204

John Freeman
P.O. Box 3105
Greenville, South Carolina 29602

VERMONT

VERMONT ECUMENICAL COUNCIL AND BIBLE SOCIETY

VERMONT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

- *VEC relationship to higher education
- *VREF relationship to state Department of Education concerning health education and Bible in the public schools etc.

Joanne Chickering (VEC)
Plainfield, Vermont 05667

Rev. David Travers (VREF)
Greensboro, Vermont 05841

VIRGINIA

PRESBYTERIANS INVOLVED IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

- *public education, consciousness-raising of church persons regarding it.
- *public education, helping to create a positive image
- *public school system, working to better support for those involved in public education - administrators, parents, students, teachers

(under court orders on desegregation)

Theresa T. Caldwell
1803 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23220

WASHINGTON

CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREATER SEATTLE

- *desegregation of Seattle schools
- *what is basic education?

The Rev. Donald Daughtery
Beacon Avenue United Church of Christ
6230 Beacon Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98108

WISCONSIN

GREATER MILWAUKEE CONFERENCE ON
RELIGION AND URBAN AFFAIRS

- *desegregation-community involvement and state legislation for suburb-city transfers

(checked both yes and no under "did desegregation take place voluntarily?" - under court orders)

Ms. Michele Goldstein
1442 North Farwell Avenue, Suite 303
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202